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THE NORTH AMERICAN INDIAN

THE
NORTH AMERICAN
INDIAN

WRITTEN, ILLUSTRATED AND
PUBLISHED BY
EDWARD S. CURTIS

TELEPHONE 3480 38TH

487 FIFTH AVENUE

NEW YORK

July 22nd, 1908.

Dear Sir:-

I am sending you a prospectus of THE NORTH AMERICAN INDIAN. A glance over the unusual endorsements of this work will convince you that it is deserving of your immediate investigation. While it is a work that should find a place in all the best libraries in this country, the edition is a limited one and the demand greater than was anticipated, being rapidly taken by wealthy collectors, book-lovers and private libraries here and abroad.

If you are desirous of securing a set for your library it will be necessary to have it reserved before the edition is exhausted, for there will be no other issue; and, further, all that part which is now being sold at patrons' price will very soon be subscribed for and the price on the remaining copies will be increased at least twenty percent to approximate more nearly the actual cost of the work.

The enterprise is unusual inasmuch as it is not a work published as a business venture. Therefore, you cannot consider it as a commercial piece of book-making. The acquisition and publication of the material was so great a matter, financially, that no publisher would attempt it. Consequently, Mr. Curtis, with his characteristic zeal, materially aided by Mr. J. Pierpont Morgan, determined to publish the work himself and by so doing has been able to keep it up to the very high standard he desired, which no publishing house, printing books for profit, would or could, in justice to itself, consider. It is a life work with Mr. Curtis with but one aim, and that to do the work in the best possible manner.

In placing these books in your library you are not securing a thing of passing worth, but one of accumulative value. Think of the Audubon volumes, now worth five times what they were originally sold for. The great difference between a book on birds and one on the Indians is; the birds are still with us, and one having the ability could do a work equally as great, while the Indians in their primitive state are fast disappearing. Much of the material collected by Mr. Curtis during the past twelve years could not be duplicated even to-day. Consider what a similar work on the aborigines of New England would now be worth?

President Roosevelt says:

"Mr. Curtis in publishing this book is rendering"
"a real and great service; a service not only to"
"our own people but to the world of scholarship "
"everywhere; a monument to American constructive"
"scholarship and research of a value unparalleled."



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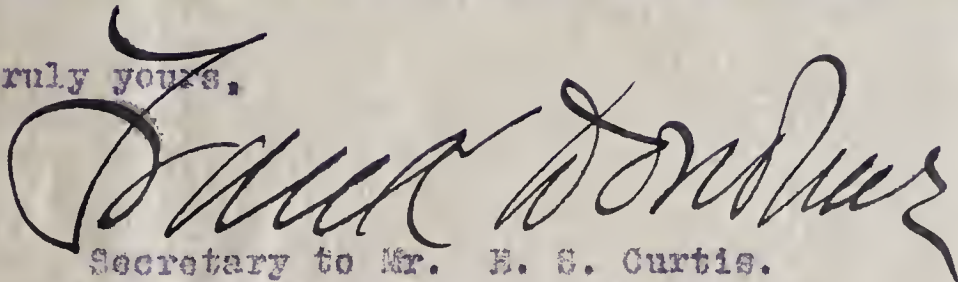
NEW YORK

The fact that a subscription is in the form of partial payments for volumes, as issued, covering six years, makes it a simple matter for any library in a position to spend a reasonable sum annually for new acquisitions. If your yearly income is scarcely sufficient to take care of the annual instalments, I would suggest that, possibly, a fund might be raised among the patrons of your library or the wealthy citizens of your city. The names of those thus subscribing would be printed on one or more pages and bound in the first volume. Should you decide to make such an appeal, I will write to those whom you intend to so approach, sending a prospectus to each one, and will forward to you Vols. I. and II., with accompanying portfolios, for your own and their inspection.

Should you subscribe, I would also suggest that upon receipt of the first two volumes a public exhibition of the seventy five photogravure which accompany them, could be given, and each year thereafter you would receive one hundred and eight, or more, new gravures, so that an annual exhibit of the new material could be made quite a feature for the friends of your library and the public generally. Several public libraries have recently concluded such exhibitions and are enthusiastic over the results, having uniformly succeeded in obtaining material aid for procuring this work.

Send for Vols. I. and II. for your own inspection, at least, and decide later on just what measures you care to take for securing them for your library.

Very truly yours,



Secretary to Mr. E. S. Curtis.

Mr. Thomas L. Montgomery,
Librarian, State Library,
Harrisburg, Pa.





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THE POOL - ADA HE

THE
NORTH AMERICAN
INDIAN

BEING A SERIES OF VOLUMES PICTURING
AND DESCRIBING

THE INDIANS OF THE UNITED STATES
AND ALASKA

WRITTEN, ILLUSTRATED, AND
PUBLISHED BY

EDWARD S. CURTIS

EDITED BY
FREDERICK WEBB HODGE

FOREWORD BY
THEODORE ROOSEVELT

FIELD RESEARCH CONDUCTED UNDER THE
PATRONAGE OF

J. PIERPONT MORGAN



IN TWENTY VOLUMES

THIS, THE FIRST VOLUME, PUBLISHED IN THE YEAR
NINETEEN HUNDRED AND SEVEN

OUTLINE OF THE CURTIS PUBLICATION OF THE NORTH AMERICAN INDIAN

THE work will consist of twenty volumes of text, and as illustrations embodied with the text there will be fifteen hundred full-page photogravure plates; forty, or more, of these, illustrating ceremonial subjects, will be hand-colored plates.

Each volume will consist of about 350, or more, quarto pages, measuring $9\frac{1}{2} \times 12\frac{1}{2}$ inches.

The entire work will be printed on imported hand-made paper of the highest grade, one part of the edition being Holland paper of a rich tone, and the other part on Japanese vellum, both papers selected with special reference to their enduring qualities.

In addition to the twenty volumes of text and its illustrations, there will be twenty portfolios, each consisting of thirty-six or more copper-plate photogravures, measuring 12×16 inches, on 18×22 sheets. The entire work will, therefore, contain a minimum total of twenty-two hundred and twenty plates illustrative of Indian subjects. No pains has been spared to produce in every detail an exceptional example of book-making.

The binding is three-quarter Levant, gold top, and the portfolios bound to match the book itself.

The general editorial supervision has been intrusted to Mr. Frederick Webb Hodge, ethnologist in the Smithsonian Institution and editor of the "American Anthropologist."

The series of volumes will comprise a descriptive and illustrative treatment of all the Indians of the United States and Alaska who still retain to a considerable degree their primitive customs and beliefs. Each volume will be complete in itself, inasmuch as it will treat of a tribe or a group of tribes quite independently of the others.

It is planned to publish three volumes a year until the work is completed. Delivery will be made as the volumes are issued; the entire set will be completed within seven years.

Two volumes are now being delivered: Volume I. covering the Navaho, Jicarilla, and Apache; Volume II. on the Pima, Papago, Qahatika, Mohave, Yuma, Maricopa, Walapai, Havasupai, and Apache-Mohave. In January, 1909, three more volumes will be ready for delivery. These will treat of the Northern Plains tribes: Volume III. being devoted to the Teton Sioux, Volume IV. to the Hidatsa and Apsaroka, Volume V. to the Mandan, Arikara, and Gros Ventre.

The total edition printed from these plates will be limited to five hundred, this number covering both the United States and Europe.

Address all correspondence to NORTH AMERICAN INDIAN, 437 Fifth Avenue, New York City.

FOREWORD

In Mr. Curtis we have both an artist and a trained observer, whose pictures are pictures, not merely photographs; whose work has far more than mere accuracy, because it is truthful. All serious students are to be congratulated because he is putting his work in permanent form; for our generation offers the last chance for doing what Mr. Curtis has done. The Indian as he has hitherto been is on the point of passing away. His life has been lived under conditions thru which our own race past so many ages ago that not a vestige of their memory remains. It would be a veritable calamity if a vivid and truthful record of these conditions were not kept. No one man alone could preserve such a record in complete form. Others have worked in the past, and are working in the present, to preserve parts of the record; but Mr. Curtis, because of the singular combination of qualities with which he has been blest, and because of his extraordinary success in making and using his opportunities, has been able to do what no other man ever has done; what, as far as we can see, no other man could do. He is an artist who works out of doors and not in the closet. He is a close observer, whose qualities of mind and body fit him to make his observations out in the field, surrounded by the wild life he commemorates. He has lived on intimate terms with many different tribes of the mountains and the plains. He knows them as they hunt, as they travel, as they go about their various avocations on the march and in the camp. He knows their medicine men and sorcerers, their chiefs and warriors, their young men and maidens. He has not only seen their vigorous outward existence, but has caught glimpses, such as few white men ever catch, into that strange spiritual and mental life of theirs; from whose innermost recesses all white men are forever barred. Mr. Curtis in publishing this book is rendering a real and great service; a service not only to our own people, but to the world of scholarship everywhere.

THEODORE ROOSEVELT

October 1st, 1906.

GENERAL INTRODUCTION

THE task of recording the descriptive material embodied in these volumes, and of preparing the photographs which accompany them, had its inception in 1898. Since that time, during each year, months of arduous labor have been spent in accumulating the data necessary to form a comprehensive and permanent record of all the important tribes of the United States and Alaska that still retain to a considerable degree their primitive customs and traditions. The value of such a work, in great measure, will lie in the breadth of its treatment, in its wealth of illustration, and in the fact that it represents the result of personal study of a people who are rapidly losing the traces of their aboriginal character and who are destined ultimately to become assimilated with the "superior race."

It has been the aim to picture all features of the Indian life and environment—types of the young and the old, with their habitations, industries, ceremonies, games, and everyday customs. Rather than being designed for mere embellishment, the photographs are each an illustration of an Indian character or of some vital phase in his existence. Yet the fact that the Indian and his surroundings lend themselves to artistic treatment has not been lost sight of, for in his country one may treat limitless subjects of an æsthetic character without in any way doing injustice to scientific accuracy or neglecting the homelier phases of aboriginal life. Indeed, in a work of this sort, to overlook those marvellous touches that Nature has given to the Indian country, and for the origin of which the native ever has a wonder-tale to relate, would be to neglect a most important chapter in the story of an environment that made the Indian much of what he is. Therefore, being directly from Nature, the accompanying pictures show what actually exists or has recently existed (for many of the subjects have

already passed forever), not what the artist in his studio may presume the Indian and his surroundings to be.

The task has not been an easy one, for although lightened at times by the readiness of the Indians to impart their knowledge, it more often required days and weeks of patient endeavor before my assistants and I succeeded in overcoming the deep-rooted superstition, conservatism, and secretiveness so characteristic of primitive people, who are ever loath to afford a glimpse of their inner life to those who are not of their own. Once the confidence of the Indians gained, the way led gradually through the difficulties, but long and serious study was necessary before knowledge of the esoteric rites and ceremonies could be gleaned.

At times the undertaking was made congenial by our surroundings in beautiful mountain wild, in the depths of primeval forest, in the refreshing shade of cañon wall, or in the homes and sacred places of the Indians themselves; while at others the broiling desert sun, the sand-storm, the flood, the biting blast of winter, lent anything but pleasure to the task.

The word-story of this primitive life, like the pictures, must be drawn direct from Nature. Nature tells the story, and in Nature's simple words I can but place it before the reader. In great measure it must be written as these lines are — while I am in close touch with the Indian life.

At the moment I am seated by a beautiful brook that bounds through the forests of Apacheland. Numberless birds are singing their songs of life and love. Within my reach lies a tree, felled only last night by a beaver, which even now darts out into the light, scans his surroundings, and scampers back. A covey of mourning doves fly to the water's edge, slake their thirst in their dainty way, and flutter off. By the brookside path now and then wander prattling children; a youth and a maiden hand in hand wend their way along the cool stream's brink. The words of the children and the lovers are unknown to me, but the story of childhood and love needs no interpreter.

It is thus near to Nature that much of the life of the Indian still is; hence its story, rather than being replete with statistics of

commercial conquests, is a record of the Indian's relations with and his dependence on the phenomena of the universe — the trees and shrubs, the sun and stars, the lightning and rain, — for these to him are animate creatures. Even more than that, they are deified, therefore are revered and propitiated, since upon them man must depend for his well-being. To the workaday man of our own race the life of the Indian is just as incomprehensible as are the complexities of civilization to the mind of the untutored savage.

While primarily a photographer, I do not see or think photographically; hence the story of Indian life will not be told in microscopic detail, but rather will be presented as a broad and luminous picture. And I hope that while our extended observations among these brown people have given no shallow insight into their life and thought, neither the pictures nor the descriptive matter will be found lacking in popular interest.

Though the treatment accorded the Indians by those who lay claim to civilization and Christianity has in many cases been worse than criminal, a rehearsal of these wrongs does not properly find a place here. Whenever it may be necessary to refer to some of the unfortunate relations that have existed between the Indians and the white race, it will be done in that unbiased manner becoming the student of history. As a body politic recognizing no individual ownership of lands, each Indian tribe naturally resented encroachment by another race, and found it impossible to relinquish without a struggle that which belonged to their people from time immemorial. On the other hand, the white man whose very own may have been killed or captured by a party of hostiles forced to the warpath by the machinations of some unscrupulous Government employé, can see nothing that is good in the Indian. There are thus two sides to the story, and in these volumes such questions must be treated with impartiality.

Nor is it our purpose to theorize on the origin of the Indians — a problem that has already resulted in the writing of a small library, and still with no satisfactory solution. The object of the work is to record by word and picture what the Indian is, not

whence he came. Even with this in view the years of a single life are insufficient for the task of treating in minute detail all the intricacies of the social structure and the arts and beliefs of many tribes. Nevertheless, by reaching beneath the surface through a study of his creation myths, his legends and folklore, more than a fair impression of the mode of thought of the Indian can be gained. In each instance all such material has been gathered by the writer and his assistants from the Indians direct, and confirmed, so far as is possible, through repetition by other members of their tribe.

Ever since the days of Columbus the assertion has been made repeatedly that the Indian has no religion and no code of ethics, chiefly for the reason that in his primitive state he recognizes no supreme God. Yet the fact remains that no people have a more elaborate religious system than our aborigines, and none are more devout in the performance of the duties connected therewith. There is scarcely an act in the Indian's life that does not involve some ceremonial performance or is not in itself a religious act, sometimes so complicated that much time and study are required to grasp even a part of its real meaning, for his myriad deities must all be propitiated lest some dire disaster befall him.

Likewise with their arts, which casual observers have sometimes denied the Indians; yet, to note a single example, the so-called "Digger" Indians, who have been characterized as in most respects the lowest type of all our tribes, are makers of delicately woven baskets, embellished with symbolic designs and so beautiful in form as to be works of art in themselves.

The great changes in practically every phase of the Indian's life that have taken place, especially within recent years, have been such that had the time for collecting much of the material, both descriptive and illustrative, herein recorded, been delayed, it would have been lost forever. The passing of every old man or woman means the passing of some tradition, some knowledge of sacred rites possessed by no other; consequently the information that is to be gathered, for the benefit of future generations, respecting the mode of life of one of the great races of mankind, must be

collected at once or the opportunity will be lost for all time. It is this need that has inspired the present task.

In treating the various tribes it has been deemed advisable that a geographic rather than an ethnologic grouping be presented, but without losing sight of tribal relationships, however remote the cognate tribes may be one from another. To simplify the study and to afford ready reference to the salient points respecting the several tribes, a summary of the information pertaining to each is given in the appendices.

In the spelling of the native terms throughout the text, as well as in the brief vocabularies appended to each volume, the simplest form possible, consistent with approximate accuracy, has been adopted. No attempt has been made to differentiate sounds so much alike that the average student fails to discern the distinction, for the words, where recorded, are designed for the general reader rather than the philologist, and it has been the endeavor to encourage their pronunciation rather than to make them repellent by inverted and other arbitrary characters.

I take this opportunity to express my deep appreciation to those who have so generously lent encouragement during these years of my labor, from the humblest dwellers in frontier cabins to the captains of industry in our great commercial centres, and from the representatives of the most modest institutions of learning to those whose fame is worldwide. Without this encouragement the work could not have been accomplished. When the last opportunity for study of the living tribes shall have passed with the Indians themselves, and the day cannot be far off, my generous friends may then feel that they have aided in a work the results of which, let it be hoped, will grow more valuable as time goes on.

EDWARD S. CURTIS.

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

DECEMBER 16, 1905.

MY DEAR MR. CURTIS, — I regard the work you have done as one of the most valuable works any American could now do. Your photographs stand by themselves, both in their wonderful artistic merit and in their value as historical documents. I know of no others which begin to approach them in either respect. You are now making a record of the lives of the Indians of our country, which in another decade cannot be made at all, and which it would be the greatest misfortune, from the standpoint alike of the ethnologist and the historian, to leave unmade. You have begun just in time, for these people are at this very moment rapidly losing the distinctive traits and customs which they have slowly developed through the ages. The Indian, as an Indian, is on the point of perishing, and when he has become a United States citizen, though it will be a much better thing for him and for the rest of the country, he will lose completely his value as a living historical document. You are doing a service which is much as if you were able suddenly to reproduce in their minute details the lives of the men who lived in Europe in the unpolished stone period. The publication of the proposed volumes and folios, dealing with every phase of Indian life among all tribes yet in a primitive condition, would be a monument to American constructive scholarship and research of a value unparalleled.

Wishing you all success, I am,

Sincerely yours,

THEODORE ROOSEVELT.

LOS ANGELES PUBLIC LIBRARY

LOS ANGELES, April 30, 1907.

DEAR MR. CURTIS, — We are looking with great interest to the first volume of your great work. It may gratify you to know that the one Director who alone objected to paying \$3,000 for your work at a time when the library was particularly hard up and had to pull in its horns even on \$1 books, has become converted and realizes at last that no respectable public library can do without such a historic record.

To some people Indians are a joke — but both as an author and as librarian I have discovered that there is no single topic which interests so many people from six years old to a century. I myself have been making photographs of Indians on the frontier of the three Americas for twenty years and have, I suppose, the largest collection in the world of intimate pictures of these people. But I frankly admit that I have never seen such successful photographs as yours. Everyone who is in educational work of any sort has come to realize the necessity of the historic record; and you have done more than anyone in recent years for the history of our country.

If it were only for their art features this library would have subscribed for your work. We have one of the largest and one of the best classified collections of pictures in any public library west of New York; and particularly from the art standpoint we could not get along without your wonderful series. When to this is added the historic interest — it simply makes me sorry that I am not able to subscribe for two copies.

Trusting that the work goes forward rapidly so that we may soon have the initial volumes, I am,

Sincerely yours,

CHAS. F. LUMMIS,

Librarian.

Open Letter from Commissioner of Indian Affairs, Francis E. Leupp

THE President has covered Mr. Curtis's case so fully as to leave to anyone who follows him only the privilege of saying "Amen." My own testimony to the excellence of this work, however, is founded on personal observation of its author in the field, and on assurances I have received from Indians whom he has visited that they have given him what they have been willing to give no other visitor, and that he has borne it away with their good will. There is a great art in collecting such material as Mr. Curtis has acquired. It is necessary, as a first step, to gain the complete confidence of the Indians, who are the most suspicious people in the world when it comes to any dealing with the white race, and possess a positively Oriental adroitness in concealing under an air of candor whatever they do not care to disclose. Mr. Curtis's personality seems to have impressed his Indian friends most favorably, and his tactful methods have been such that he is the one historical prospector to whom I have felt justified in giving absolute freedom to move about in the Indian country wherever he would.

In other published works, more pretentious than this on their strictly scientific side, are gathered valuable stores of information about our American aborigines. But Mr. Curtis's harvest has passed far beyond the statistical or encyclopædic domain; he has actually reached the heart of the Indian, and has been able to look out upon the world through the Indian's own eyes. This gives so vivid a color to his writing that his readers not only absorb but actually feel the knowledge he conveys. I do not think I exaggerate the facts in saying that the most truthful conceptions of the Indian race which will ever form themselves in the mind of posterity may be drawn from this great work.

FRANCIS E. LEUPP.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
OFFICE OF INDIAN AFFAIRS
WASHINGTON
OFFICE OF
THE COMMISSIONER

FEBRUARY 17, 1908.

MY DEAR MR. CURTIS,—I have seen a copy of the first volume of your great Indian work, and it so far exceeds even my exalted expectations for it that I am constrained to offer you my special congratulations on the successful launching of the project.

It has been a leading purpose of my administration to try to make his own contemporaries see the Indian not as he has been pictured in romance or preserved in the mummy-wrappings of archaeology, but as he *is*, in his life, in his mind, in his spirit, in his artistic ideals and sympathies, and in those traditions which afford his people their only substitute for a literature.

And that is what you are doing, far more effectively, for posterity as well.

Sincerely yours,
FRANCIS E. LEUPP.

THE HACKLEY PUBLIC LIBRARY

MUSKEGON, MICHIGAN,
March 26, 1908.

DEAR SIR,—I am enclosing you the signed contract for a set of the North American Indian. I think the members of the Board felt as I do, that it was a piece of good fortune to have the opportunity.

Very truly yours,

LULU F. MILLER,
Librarian.

PEABODY MUSEUM OF ARCHAEOLOGY AND ETHNOLOGY
HARVARD UNIVERSITY

MR. EDWARD S. CURTIS,
Pryor, Montana.

JANUARY 22, 1908.

MY DEAR MR. CURTIS, — It has given me much pleasure to look over the first volume of your great work on the North American Indians, which Mr. Phillips brought out for my inspection. Everyone will be pleased with your artistic rendering of the picturesque in Indian life — a phase of the many-sided life of the Indian which has heretofore been neglected from lack of power to present it adequately. You belong to the last generation that will be granted the high privilege of studying the Indian in anything like his native state, and all future students and historians will turn to your volumes, as all ethnologists now turn to Catlin's.

Judging from the text of this first volume, you will evidently give to Americanists much valuable information which your intimate relations with the people of the various tribes enable you to impart from Original sources. The critical anthropologist will find much of importance in the full face and profile views of men and women which will be given in your series of volumes and folios of plates; and the ethnologist will fully appreciate your many views of the various habitations of the numerous tribes living in diverse environment, with the glimpses of home life and of mysterious ceremonies.

The gathering and saving of this information is of the utmost importance while it is yet possible, and it is indeed fortunate that this work is to be done by one who has the skill of the expert photographer and the mind and eye of an artist united with a sympathetic understanding of this much-misunderstood people. It is also fortunate that you will have so critical an ethnologist as Mr. Hodge to co-operate with you in the editing of the volumes.

I am glad to be able to state that a friend has subscribed for this great work in behalf of the Peabody Museum where it will be frequently consulted in connection with our museum work, as well as by the students in the Division of Anthropology in Harvard University.

Wishing you every possible success in the continuation and completion of your work, I remain,

Cordially yours,

F. W. PUTNAM,

*Peabody Professor and Curator of the
Peabody Museum, Harvard Museum.*

*Professor of Anthropology and Director
of the Anthropological Museum, Uni-
versity of California.*

WHITMAN COLLEGE
WALLA WALLA, WASHINGTON

I THINK that the work which Mr. E. S. Curtis has undertaken in collecting information concerning the Indian tribes of America has an extraordinary value for both science and art. I am pretty well acquainted with his plans and appreciate the magnitude of the undertaking, and I know no one who is so thoroughly fitted by virtue of his training and natural capacity for such a work. The life of the American Indian will soon be entirely a matter of ancient history. The effort to secure all possible records now is one for which the Scientist, the Anthropologist, the Historian, and the Artist must be grateful. I envy the individuals and libraries who can possess a set of Mr. Curtis's great work.

STEPHEN B. L. PENROSE,
President.

METROPOLITAN MUSEUM OF ART, NEW YORK

APRIL 6, 1907.

MY DEAR MR. CURTIS, — I have had great pleasure in looking over your photographs of the North American Indians, especially as I find in them the only solution of the problem of how to render the Indian artistically when depicted. There is something — even in the best work on canvas — in the colors of his skin and dress which spoil the picture from my point of view, but in the monotone there is no disturbance of harmony, and your selection of the moment for proper lighting and grouping is generally happy.

I need not say anything about the great ethnographical value of your work, as it is obvious, and it is to be lamented that so much of interest in Indian life and customs has passed out of existence before your work was attempted.

Yours very faithfully,

C. PURDON CLARKE,
Director.

SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION
WASHINGTON, D. C.

MARCH 10, 1908.

DEAR SIR, — The portion of the work by Mr. Edward S. Curtis on the North American Indian, as represented by the volume which you were so kind as to show me, is a superb contribution to the study of the North American Indian, as well as to photography. The beautiful photographs, with the accompanying text, cannot fail to be of great service and value not only to the anthropologist but to all interested in the Indian.

I am greatly pleased to learn from you that this great work is receiving hearty support, and I trust that it will be continued and completed as has been planned.

Very truly yours,

CHAS. D. WALCOTT.

WASHINGTON, D. C., April 10, 1908.

DEAR MR. CURTIS, — Your note with reference to your wonderful volumes on the "North American Indian" is received. I want to tell you how very greatly I have been struck by the way in which you are carrying out this great and most valuable undertaking. Ethnographically, I am not qualified to speak about it, but from the point of view of perpetuating the American Indian in pictures, it seems to me you have left little to be desired. I certainly have seen no such collection of photographs anywhere in the world, and I always feel like congratulating you upon it.

Very sincerely yours,

GIFFORD PINCHOT.

From W J McGee, formerly (for ten years) Ethnologist in Charge, Bureau of American Ethnology; first President, American Anthropological Association; Chief, Department of Anthropology, Universal Exposition of 1904; author of "The Seri Indians," "The Siouan Indians," etc.

WASHINGTON, D. C., May 2, 1908.

DEAR SIR, — Your "North American Indian" is a monument to a people. The volumes I have seen and the photographs I have examined impress me profoundly. Our native race is melting away; their number as I estimate it is reduced to a third or a quarter, and they have gone from the forests and plains, from the hills and valleys over which they roamed and reigned for an age; and the survivors are changed. We have taken their land; we have blotted out their homes, their faith, their philosophy, a whole type of humanity. Our conquest has been the most striking in history; near a thousand distinct languages have given way before the conquering Anglo-Saxon speech and the force of the press. Lowly as they were, our original land-holders deserve a monument; cruel as our conquest was in some respects, it deserves a record; and your great book forms both.

I do not know any other general picture of the American Indian so faithful as yours — indeed none other nearly so vivid and accurate. I could hope that every American library may have a copy; and that others may enter many homes.

Yours cordially,
W J MCGEE.

Extract from the "Oregonian":

WITHIN the past few months E. S. Curtis, the Seattle artist, has taken by storm art critics, ethnologists, and connoisseurs in their strongest citadels of the East.

His marvellous portraits of Indians showing every species of tribal type, illustrating this vanishing race in all its ancient glory, is not only a new revelation in art which appeals to all lovers of the picturesque and beautiful, but as a study of Indian customs and character in all its most subtle and fascinating phases is an educational work of unique and remarkable value which should be enjoyed by all public-school pupils, teachers, students of American history, and the public generally.

The historical value of this collection of Indian pictures has been recognized by the Smithsonian Institution, United States Government, scientists of Washington, D. C., and President Roosevelt as a matter of international importance. As to the average man and woman, more or less ignorant of Indian life and tradition, the pictures are fascinating in the extreme.

For several years Mr. Curtis has been quietly studying and photographing the various Indian tribes at home in the wilderness, by sundry extraordinary devices obtaining access to their most secret and occult ceremonies. These will be explained in delightfully informal fashion by Mr. Curtis himself, who in the face of almost insurmountable difficulties has now made himself a leading authority on all these points. A new term has indeed been created for him, "photo-historian."

The touch of the artist is everywhere visible, whether in the marvellous atmospheric effects or the picturesque grouping of the figures. Immense labor has been expended to secure these results. One picture alone, "The Three Chiefs," required three visits to Montana and consumed in all three years' time before Mr. Curtis was satisfied with the result.

Forest and Stream, April 25, 1908

WONDERFUL INDIAN PICTURES

FOR some years it has been known that Mr. E. S. Curtis, of Seattle, was engaged in the task of collecting material for a colossal work on the North American Indians. This work — to consist of twenty quarto volumes accompanied by twenty folio portfolios — is intended to illustrate pictorially and descriptively all those tribes of Indians in the United States and Alaska which still retain something of their primitive habits and practise some of their old ways. The work of collecting this material is being carried on by Mr. Curtis with the aid of Mr. J. Pierpont Morgan, of New York, has the cordial approval and support of the President of the United States, and is under the general editorial charge of Mr. Frederick Webb Hodge, of Washington, the secretary of the Anthropological Society and editor of the "American Anthropologist." The publication of the twenty volumes and twenty portfolios will naturally extend over considerable time, but it is planned to issue three volumes a year, and to complete the entire work within seven years. The first two volumes and the two portfolios which go with them have just been published.

Being an artist, he long ago recognized the manner in which the Indian lends himself to the picturesque, and he chooses for his pictures that side of the Indian which by its closeness to nature appeals especially to the artist.

No such beautiful representations of Indians, as those which he now gives us, have before been made. They are as wonderful on the side of fidelity to nature as on the side of art, and they are equally wonderful in the beauty of the photogravure reproductions which in strength, completeness, and color have done ample justice to Mr. Curtis' beautiful pictures.

The two volumes now just issued deal with tribes of the Southwest. The name Apache was long one of terror in Arizona and New Mexico, and with reason. For many years their hostile bands slaughtered settlers and avoided the troops, scourging the new region in bitter revenge for wrongs earlier inflicted on their people. Yet we know that fifty years ago the Apaches were a kindly, friendly tribe, somewhat suspicious of the whites on account of injuries already committed, yet willing to help them by gifts of food and clothing and transportation. The Apaches have perhaps been the least known of any of our Indians, and Mr. Curtis has discovered many new things about them. He had the good fortune to be in the country of the Apache when the new Messiah craze reached its culmination, and had thus an opportunity to observe the rise and progress of one of those waves of religious enthusiasm which have so many times stirred the hearts and roused the hopes of these simple people.

In this volume appears, too, the account of the Navajoes — except the great Sioux nation — the largest tribe of American Indians. These people are self-supporting by means of their flocks and herds and their efforts at agriculture. They travel back and forth, here and there over their great reservation of more than fourteen thousand square miles, leading their flocks at different seasons to the pastures which suit their needs; in spring to the mesas, where the winter rains have produced a scanty growth of grass; in summer up into the higher mountains, and when autumn comes with its deep snows, back again down to the wooded uplands where there is grass for the sheep and fuel for winter warmth for man.

The account of their life, their beliefs, their folk tales, and the ceremonial based on these myths is extremely interesting.

The second volume deals with other Indian tribes of the Southwest, the Pimas and Yumas, and their allies, agricultural people and builders of those monuments of the Southwest, which

indicate a great population now dispersed and vanished, and a culture that it is hard to believe was no higher than that possessed by existing tribes. These were among the people met by the early Franciscan Fathers, whose reports of the wonderful civilization of the Pueblos and of the magnificence of the seven cities of Cibola drew to the north the great expedition of Coronado with its vast labors, its long journeys, and its barren results.

Within the limits of a notice, so brief as this must be, little can be said about the marvellous pictures which accompany this work. They appeal to the popular mind, to the student of humanity, to the ethnologist and to the artist. To be appreciated they must be seen, and to see them is worth a long journey. When completed, the work will comprise a series of representative Indian types absolutely unequalled by anything in the world, and one which can never be equalled, because the opportunity for taking such pictures is rapidly passing, and because the man who is able to see such pictures and then to take them will not again be born in our generation.

Mr. Curtis shows great ingenuity of expression in his pictures. He does not see the Indian with material eyes — the wretched ward of the Government in his poverty and latter-day commonplaceness — he sees him as the Indian really is, a natural man, and he shows us his nearness to nature. The picture entitled, "A Vanishing Race" is full of poetry and pathos, for what could be more significant than the long line of shadow figures passing on into the darkening distance? Mr. Curtis' nature is imaginative, and by the unconscious use of composition and the massing of darks and lights he secures effects which commend his pictures as great works of art.

From New York Herald, June 16, 1907

THE most gigantic undertaking in the making of books since the King James edition of the Bible is what the bibliophile of the future will know and cherish as "The North American Indian."

The undertaking is one that never can be repeated. The real, savage Indian is fast disappearing or becoming metamorphosed into a mere, ordinary, uninteresting imitation of the white man. It is probably safe to say that Mr. Curtis knows now more about the real Indians than any other man alive. He has eaten and lived and slept with them. He has been admitted to their councils and taken part in their ceremonies.

He has been with them in the blizzards of the bitter northwest winter and in the blinding heat of the torrid summer; he has suffered with them and he understands them. It is not his admission into so many tribes that he has difficulty in remembering them all that counts so much with Mr. Curtis as does the fact of his having been taken into their fraternities or secret orders. All their ceremonial life is made up of the rites of these orders, and it is their ceremonial life that is of the deepest interest.

There can be no reasonable doubt that the value of the work will have doubled and trebled before many years. A case in point is that of the Audubon book, which was worth \$1000 at the time of its appearance and sold recently for \$5000.

SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION
BUREAU OF AMERICAN ETHNOLOGY

WASHINGTON, D. C.,
March 15, 1905.

MY DEAR MR. CURTIS, — I beg to express to you my high appreciation of your splendid work. The Washington artists and all interested in art, as you know, are enthusiastic over your work. The ethnologists are grateful to you for securing such truthful records of a race which is rapidly losing the race characteristics, we may say with truth the "vanishing race." Now is the time to be up and doing, and I await with keenest interest the results of your efforts to secure such aid as will enable you to continue in the great work of preserving picture records of the North American Indians. As a field student for the past twenty-five years, I fully appreciate the many difficulties under which you labor; I fully understand the requisites necessary for success in such work as you are doing. Only the few will record for future generations the true history of the "vanishing race," for without certain qualities it is simply impossible to succeed in obtaining the confidence of the Indians. It is a continual wonder to me that you have in so few years passed within the doors of the inner life of so many tribes. I, from my long experience with native peoples, read pages in your work which are not open at all: a ready insight into the character and conditions of the Indian; great persistency, courage, powers of endurance, and that great love of truth without which we would not to-day have such records as you have given us.

I have travelled over the ground, and am familiar with all the tribes and ruins you have pictured in the Southwest, and your work splendidly illustrates the results of my studies as an ethnologist in that region.

It will afford me pleasure to be of any service to you.

Sincerely yours,

MATILDA COX STEVENSON.

Extract from letter from Mr. Holmes, Chief of the Bureau of American Ethnology, Smithsonian Institution, Washington, D. C.

"YOUR idea is a grand one — the preservation for the far future of an adequate record of the physical types of one of the four races of men, a race fast losing its typical characters and soon destined to pass completely away. The only means of preservation available is by publication in permanent coloring materials and on paper of the very best quality. The ordinary book of to-day will last but a few generations. This publication should last a thousand years, and it would not be the part of wisdom to undertake the expenditure required for its issue without having a series of types satisfactory artistically and covering the ground ethnologically. Such a publication should not consist of a haphazard collection of Indian portraits, but should represent all the important tribes, and, so far as possible, should consist not only of portraits but of illustrations of the arts and customs of the peoples. The project is a splendid one, and has an importance that can be realized only by those who, having a true conception of the work proposed, take the trouble to assume the point of view of the student of human history a thousand years in the future. I sincerely hope that you will succeed in this most commendable undertaking. The series of volumes would be a monument to yourself and especially to the institution making the publication possible."

Dr. Chas. M. Kurtz, Director of the Buffalo Fine Arts Academy, in "Academy Notes," March, 1908.

It has seemed strange to the writer that American artists have paid so little attention to the representation of Indian life and character. The opportunities these people offer the artist are exceptional. They are picturesque in the extreme—in appearance, costumes, and customs. They are peculiar to our own country. They are rapidly passing away;—in a few generations there will be no pure-blooded Indians remaining. They will have vanished utterly—by dying off or by amalgamation with other races. Therefore, all pictorial records of the Indian races will have great value in the future for historical as well as artistic considerations.

There have been a few painters of Indians—but only a few—in comparison with the whole number of artists. In the early days, there were George Catlin, Seth Eastman, Charles Wimar, George C. Bingham, and Charles B. King. George Catlin alone made a serious study of Indian life. From 1832 to 1838 he visited the Indians of the Yellowstone River, Indian Territory, Arkansas, and Florida. During these years he painted 470 full-length portraits of Indians, and many pictures of their life and customs, which were exhibited in the United States and in Europe, and now are in the National Museum at Washington. In recent years, the men who have devoted some attention to the representation of Indian life have been Henry F. Farny, Fernand Lungren, George de Forest Brush, E. W. Deming, E. Irving Couse, E. A. Burbank, J. H. Sharp, Frederick Remington, Charles Schreyvogel, and Bert Phillips. None of these later men, however, has devoted himself to Indian painting exclusively. It is true that Farny, Lungren, Deming, and Couse have spent a great deal of time with the Indians, have been admitted to membership in several tribes, and have had extraordinary opportunities to become acquainted with Indian life, but no one of them has produced a very large amount of work in this direction.

It remained for an artist working with the camera to come to the front and avail himself of the opportunity offered by the American Indian—almost at the last moment, but still in time—and to make a series of photographs covering almost every existing tribe, portraying hundreds of various types of character and illustrating methods of life, tribal customs, religious observances, hunting scenes, war dances, etc. In fact, Mr. Edward S. Curtis, who was first attracted to the study of Indian life some ten years ago, has, since that time, become acquainted with practically every Indian tribe in the United States, has gained the confidence of the Indians, and has established relations with their chiefs, priests, and other functionaries, with the result of securing exceptional opportunities for making comprehensive photographic representation of contemporary Indian life.

For nine years Mr. Curtis pursued his great work unaided, but a year ago he enlisted the co-operation of Mr. J. Pierpont Morgan of New York, who is contributing a generous sum toward the field work, in order that the series of photographs projected by Mr. Curtis may be completed more rapidly, so that there may be published a series of great illustrated volumes containing the results of his work.

Many of these photographs have the qualities one finds in paintings—qualities obtainable only by the artist educated in composition, in the management of light and shadow masses, and the subordination of undue detail when the spirit of the work demands it—combined with the skill of the competent photographer knowing all that one should know concerning necessary periods of exposure under different light effects, the secrets of the development of negatives to produce results most desirable, and a knowledge of making prints that are in the highest degree artistic.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
BUREAU OF BIOLOGICAL SURVEY

WASHINGTON, D. C., April 25, 1908.

MY DEAR MR. CURTIS, — The appearance of the first volumes of your sumptuous work on American Indians prompts me to express my appreciation of what you have accomplished. While for years admiring your annual take of photographs, and your courage in attempting such a prodigious piece of work, I must confess that I have had misgivings as to the eventual publication of your results. But now that you have actually brought out two volumes, with accompanying atlases of superb photogravure plates, and have several additional volumes ready for the printer, your success is an accomplished fact. Every American who sees the work will be proud that so handsome a piece of book-making has been produced in America; and every intelligent man will rejoice that ethnology and history have been enriched by such faithful and artistic records of the aboriginal inhabitants of our country.

Very truly yours,
C. HART MERRIMAN.

Mr. George Bird Grinnell in Scribner's for March, 1905

WHILE Mr. Curtis is first of all an artist, he does not think solely of his art. His mind is broad enough to see the humanity of his subjects and the importance of learning about them all that can be learned. He realizes the work's scientific value, and not content with making these beautiful and faithful records of the old-time life, with all its varied round of travel and social intercourse and ceremonial, he feels that pictures alone are not enough. They tell the story of that life in part, but they require some explanation, and as each picture represents some state or some action, the reason and cause for what the picture shows should be explained and recorded. Therefore besides making his pictures, Curtis is gathering from each tribe that he visits all that he can which relates to its customs, beliefs, and ceremonials, and is thus accumulating information of great value in itself, but of still greater value as a supplement to his pictures.

It is easy to conceive that if Curtis shall have his health, and shall live for ten years, he will then have accumulated material for the greatest artistic and historical work in American ethnology that has ever been conceived of. The work so well begun should be carried on to completion.

I have never seen pictures relating to Indians which, for fidelity to nature, combined with artistic feeling, can compare with these pictures by Curtis. To-day they are of high scientific and artistic value. What will they be a hundred years from now, when the Indians shall have utterly vanished from the face of the earth? The pictures will show to the man of that day who and what were his predecessors in the land. They will tell how the Indian lived, what were his beliefs, how he carried himself in the various operations of life, and they will tell it as no word-picture could ever tell it. He who remembers the two or three plates in Jonathan Carver's "Travels," or Bodmer's splendid illustrations in Maximilian's great work, cannot fail to realize how great a difference exists between a written and a pictured description.

The pictures speak for themselves, and the artist who has made them is devoted to his work. To accomplish it he has exchanged ease, comfort, home life, for the hardest kind of work, frequent and long-continued separation from his family, the wearing toil of travel through difficult regions, and finally the heart-breaking struggle of winning over to his purpose primitive men, to whom ambition, time, and money mean nothing, but to whom a dream or a cloud in the sky, or a bird flying across the trail from the wrong direction, means much.

AMERICAN MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY
NEW YORK

APRIL 18, 1908.

MY DEAR MR. CURTIS, — I have examined the initial volume of your beautiful work on the North American Indians, and congratulate you on its sumptuous appearance. Your technical skill, combined with the scientific knowledge of Dr. Hodge, is an indication of the artistic merit and ethnological value of this monographic production.

Very truly yours,
H. C. BUMPUS.

U. S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

APRIL 8, 1908.

MY DEAR CURTIS, — I wish to express to you the pleasure that I had in looking over with you the two volumes of your North American Indian book. There is no question that it will form a great work, when completed, and those of us who have enjoyed the possession of a few of your Indian photographs cannot but envy the fortunate individuals who will have the privilege of owning this complete work.

Yours very cordially,
GEORGE OTIS SMITH.

YALE UNIVERSITY
PEABODY MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY

ANTHROPOLOGICAL SECTION
OFFICE OF THE CURATOR

NEW HAVEN, CONNECTICUT, May 2, 1907.

MR. EDWARD S. CURTIS:

DEAR SIR, — Your plans are daring, stupendous; the work to be done is of supreme importance, and your execution of it, so far as I have been able to see, is admirable. I wish you and "The North American Indian" complete success.

Very truly yours,
GEORGE GRANT MACCURDY.

LOS ANGELES, CAL., May 1, 1908.

MY DEAR MR. CURTIS, — I want to say a word or two in commendation of your interesting and valuable work on the North American Indian, of which I have set No. 51. I regard it highly for its effective illustrations and its wealth of information concerning the home life, traditions, mythology, customs and language, arts and beliefs of this picturesque people. The work is admirable also in the typographical excellence of the text, the quality of the paper and the very handsome and tasteful outer apparel which the volumes wear. I have greatly enjoyed looking the volumes over, and am very glad to have them on my library shelves.

With kindest regards, I am,
Very sincerely yours,
H. E. HUNTINGTON.

